

50 - MICHIGAN VIRTUAL HIGH SCHOOL and DISTANCE LEARNING

Virtual Learning is a non-traditional method of receiving pupil instruction for courses that are taken via the Internet, or otherwise on a computer. These courses may be offered at the district during the day as a scheduled class period with a certificated teacher available, at or through a community college or university as a part of dual enrollment; or, at home before or after school hours with an on-site teacher mentor for assistance and evaluation. The requirements for eligibility of the course to count toward pupil membership must meet the following criteria.

Requirements for Counting Membership:

- 1. The virtual learning course is taken by a traditional high school pupil: at the high school, during the normal school day, it is part of the pupil's high school class schedule, and a certificated teacher is present.** The following requirements must be met.

- U The pupil must meet K-12 pupil membership eligibility requirements.
(See section 3 – Pupil Membership Count Requirements)

- U The course must be approved by the local school board and must generate credit toward the pupil's diploma in order to count toward the pupil's membership.

- U The certificated teacher and pupil must be assigned to the virtual course. The course must appear on the pupil's class schedule.

The course counts the same as any other in-school course and seat time is counted accordingly. There is no limit to the number of virtual learning courses that can be counted toward membership for the pupil.

- 2. The virtual learning course is taken through a community college or university as dual enrollment:**

- U The pupil must meet K-12 pupil membership eligibility requirements.

- U The pupil must be concurrently enrolled and attending at least one high school course offered by the district in which credit is earned and regular attendance is required.

- U The eligible postsecondary institution has submitted to the eligible pupil a notice indicating the course or courses and hours of enrollment of eligible pupil and a list of eligible charges.

- U The school district must pay, to the eligible postsecondary institution on behalf of the eligible pupil, the lesser of the eligible charges or the prorated percentage of the state portion of the school district's foundation allowance paid on behalf of that particular eligible pupil.
- U 50% of the postsecondary course or career and technical preparation course must fall within the school district's academic year.
- U There is no limit to the number of virtual learning courses that can be counted toward membership as long as the pupil is concurrently enrolled in a "traditional" course in the school district. (See section 5G – Postsecondary Enrollment.)

3. The virtual learning course is being taken at a pupil's self-scheduled time and place with no "regular daily attendance" required of the pupil:

- U The pupil must meet K-12 pupil membership eligibility requirements.
- U The pupil must be concurrently enrolled and attending at least one high school course offered by the district in which credit is earned and regular **daily attendance** is required.
- U The pupil must be enrolled by and be in attendance on the appropriate count day (September or February) or during the 10/30-day rule period during the class time designated for the course on the pupil's class schedule.
- U This type of virtual learning course is **limited to two per semester** per pupil.
- U The course must be **approved by the local district board** and must generate credit toward the pupil's grade progression in order to count toward the pupil membership.
- U The **teacher-of-record** must be identified. The teacher-of-record may be the instructor associated with the virtual course and; therefore, may not necessarily hold a Michigan teacher certificate.
- U An **on-site-mentor** must be assigned to the pupil who will be available for assistance and to monitor the pupil's progress in the virtual course. The on-site mentor must be a certificated teacher employed by the school district. The on-site mentor is responsible for reviewing any final exam or project that would indicate the pupil's success in the course.
- U **Each course will count as one class** on the pupil's class schedule and will generate that portion of an FTE membership that a comparable course offered by the district would generate. This is identical to pupil accounting for dual enrollment.

- U The district is required to pay any associated **tuition charges** for the course similar to the tuition requirement for dual enrollment as described in Section 21b of the State school Aid Act.

Note: The district may adopt additional requirements for pupils enrolled in such a class. Further, a district may choose not to offer these classes or to place greater restrictions on their pupils (e.g. high school pupils only), and/or on the courses offered; that is the local school board's prerogative.

4. A pupil who is a **homebound/hospitalized** pupil with a documented medical reason for not being in regular daily attendance at school and is enrolled in a virtual learning course, as described in 3 above, must be receiving a minimum of two 45-minute periods of instruction per week (general education pupil) or two one-hour non-consecutive periods of instruction per week (special education pupil) with a certificated teacher. This generates a full 1.0 FTE for the pupil. Any virtual learning classes would not generate additional membership since each pupil's membership may not exceed 1.0 FTE.
5. A pupil who is a "**mandatory expulsion**" pupil who has been required by state law to be expelled from public school and is enrolled in a virtual learning course, as described in 3 above:
 - U The pupil may be receiving individualized instruction through a home-based program. The pupil must be receiving a minimum of two 45-minute periods of pupil instruction per week (general education) or two one-hour nonconsecutive periods of pupil instruction per week (special education) with a certificated teacher. This generates a full 1.0 FTE for the pupil. Any virtual learning classes would not generate additional membership.
 - U The pupil may be receiving instruction through an alternative education program setting in which several pupils are enrolled and receiving instruction at the same time. The pupil's membership would be pro-rated and the virtual learning classes could be counted toward that pupil's membership.

Regulatory References:

State Aid Act
388.1698(5)